

Reserved Activities in Physiotherapy

PROVIDING TREATMENT FOR WOUNDS¹

This reserved activity allows physiotherapists and physical rehabilitation therapists to treat wounds such as pressure sores, varicose ulcers, and burns that affect their patients' functional abilities.

Physiotherapy professionals' involvement in treating wounds depends partially on the type and stage of the wound, how care is organized, and the availability and location of the equipment used. Wounds are usually treated jointly by an interdisciplinary team, but sometimes treatment is provided by a physiotherapy professional alone.

Physiotherapists and physical rehabilitation therapists can use a number of methods to treat wounds, including cleaning a wound through irrigation or hydrotherapy, debridement, putting on a new bandage, and using adjuvant methods² such as ultrasound, ultraviolet light, lasers, and electrical stimulation. Therapeutic surfaces and positioning may also vary.

PLEASE NOTE!

For more information on the role of physiotherapy professionals in wound treatment, please refer to the interprofessional cooperation framework for occupational therapists, nurses, and physiotherapy professionals,³ which was developed to improve treatment of chronic and complex wounds.

AUTHORIZED MEMBERS

Physiotherapists
Physical rehabilitation therapists⁴

CERTIFICATION

No OPPQ training certificate is required to perform this reserved activity.

COMPLEMENTARY

Physiotherapy professionals are authorized to administer prescribed topical medications when treating wounds.⁵

This activity may also involve other activities reserved to OPPQ members, such as using invasive forms of energy when applying adjuvant methods.⁶

SHARED

This activity is not reserved exclusively to physiotherapists. It is shared among a certain number of healthcare professionals. For example, physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, and occupational therapists may also perform this activity, subject to the aims described in their respective scopes of practice.

¹ Section 37.1, Subsection 3 f) of the *Professional Code*.

² Adjuvant methods are also called supplementary or complementary methods.

³ *Une action concertée pour optimiser le traitement des plaies chroniques et complexes – Cadre de collaboration interprofessionnelle pour les ergothérapeutes, les infirmières et les professionnels de la physiothérapie* (2014), available on the OPPQ website (in French).

⁴ Physical rehabilitation therapists can perform this activity subject to the conditions in Section 4 of the *Regulation respecting the categories of permits issued by the Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec*.

⁵ Sections 1 and 3 of the *Regulation respecting the professional activities that may be engaged in by members of the Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec*.

⁶ Section 37.1, Subsection 3 of the *Professional Code*.